



# DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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### **Delaware hosts Organization of Racing Investigators (ORI)**

The Delaware Thoroughbred and Harness Racing Commissions hosted the annual meeting of the Organization of Racing Investigators March 5 – 9, 2005 in the surroundings of Delaware's Capitol, Dover. There were representatives from throughout United States and the Canadian Provinces in attendance at the conference. The 74 attendees were also hosted by Dover Downs at which Delaware's Secretary of Agriculture, Michael Scuse welcomed the group to the First State and addressed the importance of the equine industry on the Delaware economy and referenced the recently conducted Equine Economic Impact Study. Delaware Commission Inspector, Robert Collison, who also serves as an ORI director, Inspector, Francis Swift and Commission staff served as Delaware hosts for the conference.

Key note speakers from the conference discussed the following:

- Greyhound operations and security
- Thoroughbred and Harness Racing investigations
- Medication
- Pari-Mutuel analysis
- Immigration issues
- The transformation of race tracks into racinos
- Data base technology, procedures and future goals.

John F. Wayne, Administrator of Racing commented, "Participation with the Organization of Racing Investigators reveals the commitment of Commissions and track managements to establish better understanding of the challenges facing racing, to identify potential problems, and to devise solutions. Continuing to hold dear the values of integrity and weed out would be wrong-doers that would damage the image of our sport for mere financial gain is a difficult job, but we must do it to protect not only the integrity of racing, but also the integrity in racing."

The closing dinner reception held at the Delaware State Police Officer's Lodge capped the conference with awards being given to Robert Collison and Betty Ann Davis for their support and efforts in setting up the conference.

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